

! DISCOVERY GUIDELINES !

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 471 et seq., the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan is required to control the extent of discovery and the time for completion of discovery. Discovery limitations are required for five of the six processing tracks. Track assignment and discovery limitations will be established by the court at the Rule 16 scheduling conference and cannot be amended without prior approval of the court. The discovery limitations listed below are suggested guidelines.

Voluntary Expedited Track

- ! discovery deadline 90 days after Rule 16 scheduling conference
- ! 2 depositions per party
- ! 15 single-part interrogatories per party

Expedited Track

- ! discovery deadline 120 days after Rule 16 scheduling conference
- ! 4 depositions per party
- ! 20 single-part interrogatories per party

Standard Track

- ! discovery deadline 180 days after Rule 16 scheduling conference
- ! 8 depositions per party
- ! 30 single-part interrogatories per party

Complex Track

- ! discovery deadline 270 days after Rule 16 scheduling conference
- ! 15 depositions per party
- ! 50 single-part interrogatories per party

Highly Complex Track

- ! discovery guidelines and limitations are at the discretion of the court

Administrative Track

- ! civil rights cases assigned to this track are limited to 15 single-part interrogatories and requests for production of 5 categories of documents per party

! QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS !

Q. Will I be able to indicate my preference for track assignment and discovery limitations?

A. Yes, at the Rule 16 scheduling conference.

Q. How and when will a Rule 16 scheduling conference be conducted?

A. The conference will be held within forty-five (45) days of the court's receipt of the last defendant's first responsive pleading. It will be conducted either in person or via telephone, depending upon judicial preference. Track assignment and discovery limitations will be determined at this time and cannot be amended without prior approval of the court for good cause shown.

Q. Can a case ever change tracks?

A. Request for track reassignment can be made by motion at any time.

Q. Why do I have to waive my right to an Article III judge on Track I?

A. In order to assure a firm, early trial

date, your case may be tried by the first judicial officer available.

Q. Have new local rules been adopted with respect to DCM and/or the amendments to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure?

A. Yes, new local rules designed to facilitate DCM implementation, were adopted on September 1, 1992. An administrative order suspending or modifying certain amendments to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, was adopted on December 17, 1993. Both are available in the Clerk's office.

Q. Who should be contacted regarding case management issues?

A. The case manager/courtroom deputy of the judicial officer assigned to your case should be contacted if questions or problems arise regarding case management issues.



THE CIVIL JUSTICE REFORM ACT OF 1990

DIFFERENTIATED CASE MANAGEMENT

United States District Court
Western District of Michigan